

# **Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report**

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FY 2008  
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# **Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report Cover Page**

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## **Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report**

### **Part I - Non-Case Services**

#### **A. Information and Referral Services**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Total Number of Individuals Receiving I&R Services during the Fiscal Year | 26 |
| 2. Total Number of Requests for I&R Services during the Fiscal Year          | 26 |

#### **B. Training Activities**

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. Number of Training Sessions Presented by Staff             | 33   |
| 2. Number of Individuals Who Attended These Training Sessions | 2069 |
| 3. Describe two training events presented by the staff.       |      |

##### **Training Event #1**

###### **(a) topics covered**

IPAS presented information relating to our assistive technology program at the INDATA (Indiana Assistive Technology Act) conference. The information presented at this conference focused on equal access and equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities who seek to participate in recreational and leisure activities, as well as disability and access issues related to public festivals and other temporary events.

###### **(b) the purpose of the training**

The purpose of this training was to inform individuals with disabilities and their advocates about their legal right to equal access to public recreational and leisure activities, as well as to festivals and other temporary public events. This training also included information about how assistive technology can enhance these activities for individuals with disabilities, and services available through Indiana Protection and Advocacy to assist individuals with disabilities when they are denied equal access to these events.

###### **(c) a description of the attendees**

Twenty individuals attended this presentation. Attendees included individuals with disabilities, individuals who provide care for individuals with disabilities, and friends, family and other advocates for individuals with disabilities.

##### **Training Event #2**

###### **(a) topics covered**

Staff of Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services presented information describing service available through the IPAS Assistive Technology program at the PATINS conference on April 16, 2008. PATINS (Promoting Advancement through Technology and INstruction for all Students) is an organization that facilitates the delivery of assistive technology services in the public school system. Information presented included services available through our assistive technology program.

###### **(b) the purpose of the training**

The purpose of this training was to inform individuals about services available through our agency assistive technology program and to inform and educate attendees about how to present their best case at an administrative appeal when an individual is denied access to assistive technology. The goal of this training was to better prepare individuals with disabilities to effectively self-advocate, both in the process of seeking assistive technology and presenting an effective appeal when denied access to assistive technology.

###### **(c) a description of the attendees**

Four hundred individuals attended this conference. Attendees included individuals with

disabilities, individuals who provide care for individuals with disabilities, friends, family, and other advocates for individuals with disabilities.

4. Agency Outreach

Describe the agency's outreach efforts to previously unserved or underserved individuals including minority communities.

On July 8, 2008, IPAS was an exhibitor at Indiana Black Expo. Information about the agency assistive technology program was distributed to Expo attendees. Indiana Black Expo is primarily attended by members of the African-American community. Approximately 500 individuals attended.

### C. Information Disseminated to the Public by Your Agency

For each method of dissemination, enter the total number of each method used by your agency during the reporting period to distribute information to the public. For publications/booklets/brochures (item 5), enter the total number of documents produced. See instruction manual for details.

Method of dissemination	Number
1. Radio and TV Appearances by Agency Staff	0
2. Newspaper/Magazine/Journal Articles Prepared by Agency Staff	0
3. PSAs/Videos Aired by the Agency	0
4. Website Hits	64853
5. Publications/Booklets/Brochures Disseminated by the Agency	12939
5a. Number of individuals/agencies receiving documents produced in item 5	12939
6. Other (specify below)	

### D. Information Disseminated About Your Agency by External Media Coverage

Describe information about your agency produced and disseminated by external media or other agencies/entities for each of the relevant categories below. Enter ?N/A? for each field not applicable for your agency.

1. Radio/TV coverage

As part of the agency's effort to inform individuals who have a disability about their legal rights to an accessible polling place, IPAS created a Voting Guide to distribute to interested individuals. As the November elections neared, the Voting Guide was featured and read on WFYI, a local public radio station. The Voting Guide was read on-air during several airings of a program entitled "At Your Service." This program features current events, public services and information. Approximately 1800 individuals received this information.

2. Newspapers/Magazines/Journals

No newspaper, magazine, or journal articles were published this year.

3. PSAs/Videos

No PSAs or Videos were produced this year.

4. Publications/Booklets/Brochures

12,939 publications, booklets and brochures containing information about the agency assistive technology program were distributed this year. Brochures distributed by the agency included "Funding of Assistive Technology, State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies and Their Obligation to Maximize Employment" and "Funding of Assistive Technology, The Public School's Special Education System as a Funding Source: The Cutting Edge."



## Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report

### Part II - Case Services

#### A. Individuals Served

Report information on the individuals served during the fiscal year and the number of closed cases. Refer to the instruction manual for details on completing items 4 and 4a.

Individuals	Number
1. Individuals Served Receiving Advocacy at Start of Fiscal Year (carryover from prior)	10
2. Additional Individuals Served During Fiscal Year (new for fiscal year)	18
3. Total Number of Individuals Served During Fiscal Year	28
4a. Total Number of Cases Closed During the Fiscal Year	19
4b. Total Number of Individuals with All Their Cases Closed During the Fiscal Year	19
5. Total Individuals Still Being Served at the End of the Fiscal Year (3 minus 4b)	9

*[Item II.A.3 is a checkpoint reference. Several subsequent tables will require that their totals match the number reported for the total number of individuals served during the fiscal year.]*

#### B. Problem Areas/Complaints

Identify the problem areas or complaints of each case served by your PAAT program during the fiscal year (include new cases and carry-over cases). More than one problem area/complaint may be identified in a single case.

Complaint Area	Number
1. Architectural Accessibility	0
2. Education	2
3. Employment Discrimination	0
4. SSI/SSDI Work Incentives	0
5. Healthcare (total)	20
a. Medicaid	7
b. Medicare	1
c. Private Medical Insurance	1
d. Other specify below	11
Healthcare services provided to inmates of correctional facilities.	
6. Housing	0
7. Post-Secondary Education	0
8. Rehabilitation Services	5
9. Transportation	0
10. Voting (total)	0

a. Accessible Polling Place / Equipment	0
b. Registration	0
c. Other	0
11. Other - specify	1
1. Problem with being reimbursed for the cost of a vehicle modification that was not completed.	
12. Other - specify	0
13. Total	28

### C. Problem Areas/Complaints

Identify the problem areas or complaints of each case served by your PAAT program during the fiscal year (include new cases Report (1) the total number of individuals who received one or more AT devices or services as a result of casework during the fiscal year. For item (2), report by type, the total number of AT devices and services received by those individuals reported in item (1).

- Number of individuals that received one or more AT devices or services as a result of casework (unduplicated count) 17

2.	Type of AT device or AT service received as a result of casework	Number of devices/services
	a. Devices for communication	2
	b. Devices for mobility	11
	c. Devices for hearing or seeing	1
	d. Devices for reading or writing	1
	e. Devices to assist with household activities	1
	f. Devices to assist with participation in play or recreation	1
	g. Devices to assist with personal care	2
	h. Devices to aid in therapy or medical treatment	1
	i. Devices to assist with the use of public/private transportation	4
	j. Devices to assist with employment	1
	k. Devices to aid with school/learning	2
	l. AT services	0
	m. Other ? specify below	0
	n. Total number of devices and services received as a result of casework (a-l)	27

### D. Primary Reason for Closing a Case File

Identify the primary reason for closing a case file. Select the best reason if more than one reason applies.

Primary Reason	Number of cases
1. All Issues Resolved in Client's Favor	10
2. Some Issues Resolved in Client's Favor	1
3. Other Representation Obtained	0
4. Individual Withdrew Complaint	1

5. Services Not Needed Due to Death, Relocation, etc.	1
6. Individual Not Responsive to Agency	0
7. Case Lacked Legal Merit	5
8. Conflict of Interest	0
9. Lack of Resources	0
10. Not Within Priorities	0
11. Issue Not Resolved in Client's Favor	0
12. Other ? specify	1
Issue was not resolved via Medicaid, but alternative resource was found.	
13. Total (number must match Part II A4a)	19

## E. Intervention Strategies for Closed Cases

Report the highest intervention strategy used for each case closed during the fiscal year, considering the lowest form of intervention to be ?Short Term Assistance?, and the highest to be ?Class Action Suits.? See instruction manual for an example. Each closed case should be counted only once -do not include any open cases in this count. the total reported on line 9 should match the total in II.D.13 above (primary reason for closing a case during the fiscal year).

Interventions	Number of cases
1. Short Term Assistance	9
2. Systemic/Policy Activities	0
3. Investigation/Monitoring	5
4. Negotiation	3
5. Mediation/Alternative Dispute Resolution	0
6. Administrative Hearing	2
7. Legal Remedy/Litigation	0
8. Class Action Suits	0
9. Total (this should match the total in Part II.A.4.a above)	19



## Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report

### Part III - Statistical Information For Individuals Served

#### A. Age of Individuals Served

Report the age of the individuals served during the reporting period (unduplicated count). The total reported should match the total in II.A.3 above (total number of individuals served during fiscal year).

Age	Number of individuals
0 to 4	0
5 to 13	3
14 to 18	2
19 to 21	1
22 to 40	7
41 to 64	14
65 and over	1
Age Unknown	0
Total (this should match the total in II.A.3)	28

#### B. Gender of Individuals Served

Report the gender of the individuals served during the reporting period. The total reported should match the total in II.A.3 above (total number of individuals served during fiscal year).

Gender	Number of individuals
Male	23
Female	5
Total (this should match the total in II.A.3)	28

#### C. Race and Ethnicity of Individuals Served

##### 1. Race of individuals served.

Report an unduplicated count of the self-reported racial backgrounds of individuals served under the PAAT grant during the fiscal year. If an individual reported more than one race, report that individual in the "More than one race" category rather than each of the categories they selected. Ethnicity is treated separately from race, so for individuals who are Hispanic/Latino, it is also necessary to specify a race. See the instruction manual for more details on completing Section C. The total reported on line "h" should match the total in II.A.3 above (total number of individuals served during fiscal year).

Race	Number of individuals
a. American Indian or Alaska Native	1
b. Asian	0
c. Black or African American	3
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
e. White	24

f. More than one race	0
g. Unknown/not reported	0
h. Total (this should match the total in II.A.3)	28

2. Ethnicity of individuals served.

Report an unduplicated count of the self-reported ethnicity of the individuals served under the PAAT grant during the fiscal year. The total reported on line ?d? should match the total in II.A.3 above (total number of individuals served during fiscal year).

Race	Number of individuals
a. Hispanic/Latino	0
b. Non- Hispanic/Latino	27
c. Ethnicity unknown/not reported	1
d. Total (this should match the total in II.A.3)	28

## D. Living Arrangements of Individuals Served

Identify the primary living arrangement of each individual served by the PAAT program during the fiscal year. For individuals who had more than one living arrangement while receiving services, please report the living arrangement when the case was opened (if theirs was a new case; report the arrangement at the beginning of the fiscal year if the case continued from the previous year). The total reported on line 15 should match the total in II.A.3 above (total number of individuals served during fiscal year).

Living Arrangement	Number of individuals
1. Community Residential Home	0
2. Foster Care	0
3. Homeless/Shelter	0
4. Legal Detention/Jail/Prison	11
5. Nursing Facility	2
6. Parental/Guardian or Other Family Home	8
7. Independent	7
8. Private Institutional Setting	0
9. Public (State Operated) Institutional Setting	0
10. Public Housing	0
11. VA Hospital	0
12. Other - describe the living arrangement	0
13. Other - describe the living arrangement	0
14. Unknown/Not Provided	0
15. Total (this should match the total in II.A.3)	28

## E. Primary Disability of Individuals Served

Identify the primary disability of each individual served by the PAAT program during the fiscal year. For individuals with multiple disabilities, please select the one disabling condition deemed to be most important in the context of their case. The total reported on line 34 should match the total in II.A.3 above (total number of individuals served during fiscal year).

Primary Disabling Condition	Number of individuals
1. ADD/ADHD	0
2. AIDS/HIV Positive	0
3. Absence of Extremities	1
4. Auto-immune (non-AIDS/HIV)	0
5. Autism	0
6. Blindness (Both Eyes)	0
7. Other Visual Impairments (Not Blind)	0
8. Cancer	0
9. Cerebral Palsy	4
10. Deafness	0
11. Hard of Hearing/ Hearing Impaired (Not Deaf)	1
12. Deaf-Blind	0
13. Diabetes	0
14. Digestive Disorders	0
15. Epilepsy	0
16. Genitourinary Conditions	0
17. Heart & Other Circulatory Conditions	1
18. Mental Illness	0
19. Mental Retardation	2
20. Multiple Sclerosis	1
21. Muscular Dystrophy	1
22. Muscular/Skeletal Impairment	2
23. Orthopedic Impairments	13
24. Neurological Disorders/Impairment	0
25. Respiratory Disorders/Impairment	0
26. Skin Conditions	0
27. Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD)	1
28. Speech Impairments	0
29. Spina bifida	0
30. Substance Abuse (Alcohol or Drugs)	0
31. Tourette Syndrome	0
32. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	1
33. Other Disability - specify	0
34. Total (this should match the total in II.A.3)	28

## F. Geographic Location of Individuals Served

Report the geographic location of the individuals served by the PAAT program during the fiscal year. The total reported on line 5 should match the total in II.A.3 above (total number of individuals served during fiscal year).

Geographic Location	Number of individuals
1. Urban/Suburban (50k population)	7
2. Rural (	21
3. Other - specify	0
4. Unknown	0
5. Total (this should match the total in II.A.3)	28

## **Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report**

### **Part IV - Systemic Activities And Litigation**

#### **A. Non-Litigation Systemic Activities**

1. Number of Policies/Practices Changed as a Result of Non-Litigation Systemic Activities

1

2. Describe the agency's systemic activity completed during the fiscal year. (Click *Add Row* at the bottom of this screen to add more)

##### **Row 1**

(a) The policy or practice that was changed, as a result of your agency's non-litigation systemic activity, along with a description of the negative impact upon individuals with disabilities  
Staff of IPAS have been engaged in discussion with the state Vocational Rehabilitation agency in an effort to bring the State Vocational Rehabilitation agency into compliance with the Rehabilitation Act in regards to individuals who are diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing. IPAS has received numerous complaints from applicants for vocational rehabilitation services that the state vocational rehabilitation agency refuses to provide hearing aids even when the hearings aids are necessary to obtain or retain employment. The refusal of the state vocational rehabilitation agency to provide hearing aids when appropriate results in a significant barrier to employment for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and have insufficient financial resources to purchase the hearing aids themselves.

(b) The manner in which this change benefited individuals with disabilities

The efforts by IPAS staff to facilitate systemic change in the state vocational rehabilitation program has resulted in significantly increased access to hearing aids for individuals needing them to find and retain employment.

(c) Estimate the number of individuals potentially affected by the policy/practice change (or enter N/A)

500

(d) The method used to determine this estimate (or enter N.A)

Extrapolation of the frequency of requests for assistance on this issue received by IPAS over the last year.

(e) Include one case example of the agency's systemic activity related to this policy/practice change.

IPAS activity regarding this issue has been through discussion and negotiation with the state Vocational Rehabilitation agency and was not intended to generate cases.

## **Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report**

### **Part IV - Systemic Activities And Litigation**

#### **A. Non-Litigation Systemic Activities**

3. Number of On-going Non-Litigation Systemic Activities

1

4. Describe the agency?s on-going systemic activities. (Click *Add Row* to add more)

##### **Row 1**

(a) How these activities may benefit individuals with disabilities

IPAS continues to monitor the actions of the state vocational rehabilitation office regarding their provision of van modifications. IPAS has received two complaints over the last two years involving denials of vehicle modifications to individuals who were found to be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services. The state vocational rehabilitation office had placed arbitrary restrictions on the brand of van they will agree to modify based upon their assertion that certain vehicles had not been adequately crash-tested to determine crashworthiness. The appropriate arbiter of such determinations is the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which has specific procedures and findings regarding crashworthiness that does not always require crash-testing. IPAS was successful in obtaining a reversal for our clients whose freedom of choice of which vehicle to purchase had been unfairly restricted by the state office of vocational rehabilitation. Freedom of choice on issues such as this is guaranteed in the Federal Rehabilitation Act and the efforts by IPAS in this regard have benefited individuals seeking these services from the state vocational rehabilitation program.

(b) Estimate the number of individuals potentially affected by such activities (or 500  
leave blank if N/A)

(c) The method used to determine this estimate (or enter N.A)

Extrapolation of the number of requests for assistance with this issue received by IPAS.

(d) Describe the potential policy/practice change that may result from this activity.

Individuals seeking modifications for their vehicle from the state vocational rehabilitation will have a greater choice of which vehicle to purchase.

## Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report

### Part IV - Systemic Activities And Litigation

#### B. Litigation/Class Actions

Report information on the PAAT-related litigation for your agency.

	Category	Number
1.	Total Number of Non-Class Action Lawsuits, resulting in, or with the potential for, systemic change, pending during the fiscal year	1
	a. Number of Non-Class Action Lawsuits Newly Filed During Fiscal Year	1
	b. Number of Non-Class Action Lawsuits That were Pending at Start of Fiscal Year (carryover from prior fiscal year)	0
	c. Number of Non-Class Action Lawsuits Closed During Fiscal Year	0

If the total for question 1 is zero, skip to Question 3.

2. Describe the agency's on-going systemic non-class action litigation activities.

Using a case example that demonstrates the potential impact of the agency's class action activities, explain (a) the issue that prompted the litigation, (b) the negative impact upon individuals with disabilities and (c) the potential benefit to individuals with disabilities. If possible, (d) estimate the number of individuals potentially affected by changes resulting from the litigation and (e) the method used to determine this estimate.

- a. IPAS received a complaint that the State Medicaid agency has a blanket policy of denying Medicaid funding for standing wheelchairs regardless of the showing of medical need for the device by the individual. The State Medicaid agency based this rigid, absolute and overly-restrictive policy on their asserted grounds that the medical benefits of this device have not been proven. We agreed to represent an individual whose physician, occupational therapist, and physical therapist offered compelling and credible testimony as to the medical necessity of a standing wheelchair as an integral part of our client's treatment regimen.
- b. According to State and Federal Medicaid law, Medicaid funding should be provided to purchase services and equipment that is found to be medically necessary. Additionally, requests for Medicaid services must be considered on an individual basis with regard to the specific needs of the individual. The policy enforced by the State Medicaid agency in this case is clearly violative of the relevant state and federal law and should not be allowed to stand. IPAS filed a lawsuit to challenge this policy.
- c. When a device or service is found to be medically necessary for an individual's treatment and that individual does not have the financial means to procure that device or service, the Medicaid Act requires the State Medicaid agency to provide it. The actions by the State Medicaid agency in this case fails to comply with the spirit and intent of the Federal Medicaid Act.
- d. 500
- e. Estimate provided by standing wheelchair manufacturer serving the midwest.

If the total for question 1.c is zero, skip to Question 4.

3. Describe the agency's completed systemic non-class action litigation activities.
- Using a case example that demonstrates the potential impact of the agency's completed non-class action activities, explain (a) the issue that prompted the litigation, (b) the manner in which individuals with disabilities were being negatively affected, and (c) the benefit to individuals with

disabilities. If possible, (d) estimate the number of individuals affected by changes resulting from the litigation and (e) the method used to determine this estimate.

- a. IPAS did not complete a systemic non-class action litigation project during the last fiscal year.
- b. N/A
- c. N/A
- d. 0
- e. N/A

Report information on the PAAT-related class action lawsuits for your agency.

Category		Number
4.	Total Number of Class Action Lawsuits Filed and/or Pending (during fiscal year)	0
	a. Number of Class Action Lawsuits Newly Filed During Fiscal Year	
	b. Number of Class Action Lawsuits Pending at Start of Fiscal Year (carryover from prior fiscal year)	
	c. Number of Class Action Lawsuits Closed During Fiscal Year.	

If the total for question 4 is zero, skip to Question 6.

- 5. Describe the agency's on-going systemic class action litigation activities.  
Using a case example that demonstrates the potential impact of the agency's class action activities, explain (a) the issue that prompted the litigation, (b) the negative impact upon individuals with disabilities and (c) the potential benefit to individuals with disabilities. If possible, (d) estimate the number of individuals potentially affected by changes resulting from the litigation and (e) the method used to determine this estimate.
- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

If the total for question 4.c is zero, skip to Section C.

- 6. Describe the agency's completed systemic class action activities.  
Using a case example that demonstrates the impact of the agency's class action activities, explain (a) the issue that prompted the litigation, (b) the negative impact upon individuals with disabilities and (c) the benefit to individuals with disabilities. If possible, (d) estimate the number of individuals potentially affected by changes resulting from the litigation and (e) the method used to determine this estimate.
- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

## C. Litigation-Related Monitoring

Did the agency conduct any litigation-related monitoring under the PAAT



program during the fiscal year?

If yes, describe any monitoring conducted by the agency related to court orders or case settlements by (1) providing the major areas of monitoring and (2) the groups likely to be affected. (3) Address the major outcomes of the litigation-related monitoring during the fiscal year. Include (4) at least one case example that demonstrates the impact of the agency's litigation-related monitoring.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## **Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report**

### **Part V - Priorities**

#### **A. Priorities**

For each of your PAAT program priorities for the fiscal year covered by this report, please provide the information below. You may enter data on as many priorities as you need. See the instruction manual for more details.

For each of your PAAT program priorities for the fiscal year covered by this report, please provide the information below. You may enter data on as many priorities as you need. See the instruction manual for more details.

#### **Priority 1**

1. Describe the priority  
To increase independence and participation in communities for individuals with disabilities by assuring access to assistive technology services and devices.
2. Describe the Need, Issue, or Barrier Addressed  
Many individuals with disabilities have no access to necessary assistive technology in the areas of education, health care, employment, and community living due to a lack of financial resources with which to purchase such equipment. IPAS assists these individuals in gaining access to assistive technology through negotiation and representation in administrative proceedings and litigation.
3. Indicate the Outcome of the priority  
Successfully met.  
  
(a) Describe any external or internal implementation problems for outcomes marked not met or partially met.  
N/A
4. Total Number of Cases Handled Related to the Priority (enter zero if needed)  
28
5. Illustrative Cases/Activities (at least one specific case/activity description showing the success)  
IPAS successfully represented an individual who desperately needed a new wheelchair, customized to address his specific needs. This individual resided in a long-term care facility; a nursing home. The State Medicaid agency denied his request for a new customized wheelchair, asserting that the new wheelchair should be purchased through the per diem funds the facility receives from the federal government. The Medicaid Act requires the State Medicaid agency to purchase custom wheelchairs through their funds; per diem funds are to be used only to purchase standard wheelchairs that are not customized. IPAS agreed to represent this individual. The client requested an administrative hearing. Shortly thereafter, the client was notified that the State Medicaid agency had reversed their earlier denial and now agreed to provide a customized wheelchair to this individual.

#### **Priority 2**

1. Describe the priority  
Our agency will provide timely and accurate information about disability rights and technical assistance concerning the exercise of these rights through information and referral services available through our agency.

2. Describe the Need, Issue, or Barrier Addressed  
Appropriate IPAS staff will respond to requests for information and referral and will provide technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, their families, their caregivers and other interested individuals about assistive technology issues.
3. Indicate the Outcome of the priority  
Successfully met.  
  
(a) Describe any external or internal implementation problems for outcomes marked not met or partially met.  
N/A
4. Total Number of Cases Handled Related to the Priority (enter zero if needed)  
26
5. Illustrative Cases/Activities (at least one specific case/activity description showing the success)  
This priority does not generate actual cases, but rather reflects the number of individuals for whom IPAS staff provided information and referral services.

## **Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report**

### **Part V - Priorities**

#### **B. Priorities for the Current Fiscal Year**

Report your program priorities for the current fiscal year (the fiscal year succeeding that covered by this report). You may enter data on as many priorities as you need.

##### **Row 1**

1. Describe the priority  
IPAS will increase independence and participation in communities for individuals with disabilities by assuring access to assistive technology services and devices.
2. Describe the Need, Issue, or Barrier Addressed  
Many individuals have no access to necessary assistive technology in the areas of education, health care, employment, and community living due to a lack of financial resources. IPAS assists these individuals in gaining access to assistive technology through negotiation and representation in administrative proceedings and litigation.

##### **Row 2**

1. Describe the priority  
IPAS will provide timely and accurate information about disability rights and technical assistance concerning the exercise of these rights.
2. Describe the Need, Issue, or Barrier Addressed  
IPAS staff will respond to requests for information and referral and will provide technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, their families, caregivers and other interested professionals about assistive technology. Through these efforts, IPAS will assist individuals to effectively self-advocate as they seek access to assistive technology and services.

## **Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report**

### **Part V - Priorities**

#### **C. Agency Accomplishments**

Describe the most significant accomplishments of the agency during the fiscal year.

IPAS continues to have a significant positive effect on making assistive technology more accessible to individuals with disabilities. Our trained staff have successfully represented individuals through negotiation and the administrative hearing process, resulting in only one case going to litigation. We opened eighteen new cases through our assistive technology priorities this year, and we have received no complaints regarding our representation. IPAS continues to maintain a reputation as an effective, responsive, and accessible advocacy organization.

On a systemic level, our outreach activities reached 2069 individuals through thirty-three live training events this year, and we disseminated 12,929 agency brochures and pamphlets to interested individuals. We assisted twenty-six individuals through information and referral. While we are quite proud of the success we've had this year as we assist individuals who seek access to assistive technology, we also continue to have a significant positive impact in helping individuals learn to effectively self-advocate. We look forward to building on those accomplishments through our advocacy and outreach efforts in the coming years.

## Annual Protection and Advocacy For Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program Performance Report Part VI - Agency Administration

### A. Agency Funding

Enter the sources of funds your agency received and used to carry out PAAT program activities. Round to the nearest dollar, do not include cents. Do not include in-kind contributions in the 'Other' categories. Refer to instruction manual for types of funds to report in 'Other.'

PAAT funding sources	Amount Received
1. Federal P&A (AT Act funds):	69,623
2. Program income	0
3. Other - specify below	0
4. Other - specify below	0
5. Other - specify below	0
6. Total	69,623

### B. Description of PAAT Program Staff

- Provide a brief description of the agency's staffing plan for carrying out PAAT activities.  
The IPAS PAAT program staff includes a Program Coordinator, a Regional Supervisor, and three advocates. While these individuals work under other grants as well, they devote sufficient time to PAAT responsibilities to appropriately respond to all requests for assistance from individuals seeking access to assistive technology.
- PAAT Staff  
Report on the number of persons and the number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff performing PAAT activities. As applicable, include (a) staff supported in full or in part by PAAT grant funds during the current reporting year, (b) subcontractor staff supported by PAAT funds and (c) P&A management staff to the extent that their duties included oversight of the PAAT program (and salaries were paid out of PAAT funds). Do not include P&A staff who did not work on PAAT cases during the fiscal year. Report actual, not budgeted, FTE totals. See the instruction manual for an example and further details on the type of staff to include in each position.

Type of Position	Number of persons	Number of FTEs
Professional Full-time	21	0.67
Professional Part-time	0	0.00
Administrative Full-time	9	0.33
Administrative Part-time	0	0.00
Totals	30	1.00

## C. Consumer Involvement

- 1 Briefly describe any consumer-responsive activities not reported elsewhere in this report (e.g., PAAT Advisory Board, forums to obtain input into planning and priorities). If not applicable, enter N/A

- 2 Consumer Involvement in P&A Agency Staff and Board

	Agency staff	Agency board
Person with a disability	5.00	4.00
Family members of a person with a disability	24.00	7.00
Total	29.00	11.00

## D. Grievances Filed

Number of PAAT grievances filed against the agency during the fiscal 0  
year

## E. Collaborative Efforts

- 1 Collaboration with Other P&A Programs and Activities  
Briefly describe your work on AT issues funded by other P&A programs (do not include activities carried out with PAAT funds).  
IPAS worked on some assistive technology issues that were funded through the Client Assistance Program as well as some PAAT activities that were funded through the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program.  
IPAS administers seven other federally funded advocacy services. PAAT activities are closely coordinated with these other grant programs.
- 2 All Other Collaboration  
Describe any coordination with programs that are not part of the agency (e.g. state Tech Act projects, state long-term care programs, etc.).  
IPAS continues to work with the State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), seeking systemic change in some of their past practices which prevent access to some much-needed assistive technology to certain applicants for VR services. Individuals have too-frequently been denied access to hearing aids and vehicle modifications as they seek to find or retain gainful employment. As we continue to engage in this cooperative effort, more individuals are able to access these badly-needed services and equipment.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number of this information collection is 1820-0661. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 16 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data sources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4760. If you have any comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: Jessica Smith, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-2800..